

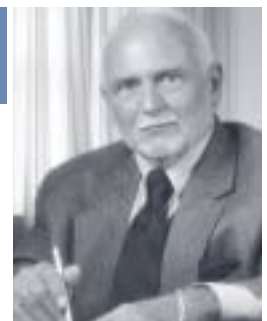
To: Community Representatives

From: Thomas Gallagher, Ph.D., Director
Office of Community Liaison
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Date: June 2003

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY LIAISON

The NIH Division of Safety is closely involved in the planning and design of Building 33 and will remain closely involved in the operation of the building. The Division of Safety reviews and approves all proposed protocols and operating procedures for every Bio-safety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory on the NIH campus prior to its use. Likewise, a stringent approval process takes place before each and any experiment can begin at NIH. The first and last consideration of the Division of Safety is always the same—safety.



Thomas Gallagher, Ph.D.

According to the Division of Safety, there is absolutely no reason to believe that a properly constructed and properly operated BSL-2/3 facility such as Building 33 poses any threat to the local community. For example, at NIH there are no recorded incidents involving the community from any of the extant BSL-2 or BSL-3 facilities. Furthermore, BSL-2/3 facilities have operated safely in the United States for over 30 years. However, that is no surprise since bio-containment laboratories are designed specifically to eliminate risk. It is important to emphasize and underscore that BSL-2/3 labs are widespread and have operated safely for decades. In fact, most facilities in the United States with infectious disease research programs have BSL-3 laboratories. In addition, most hospitals now have BSL-3 areas used for tuberculosis and fungal isolation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has categorized infectious agents according to the containment level at which they must be handled (<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/Agent/Agentlist.asp>). All NIH laboratories must undergo stringent certification processes before they can be used. Moreover, all NIH laboratories are regularly inspected to assure compliance. Finally, each protocol involving use of agents on the CDC list must be approved by NIH safety officials before any lab work can begin.

In order to further assure the NIH community about the safety of the new labs, a risk assessment of Building 33 is currently underway. The risk assessment should be completed by late summer. In the meantime, preliminary planning for the facility has already been completed, and the project is now in the early stages of design development. The design should be finished within one year. Construction may

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The Community Liaison Council will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, June 19, at 4 p.m.**, in Conference Room D, Natcher Conference Center, Building 45 on the NIH Campus.

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take up to two years. Groundbreaking is expected during the summer of 2003, with completion anticipated in 2005. The budget includes \$186.1 million for planning, design, construction and related costs for the Integrated Research Facility and the associated 1,250-car garage necessary to replace the surface parking at the proposed site.

Until the design process is complete, it is not known exactly how many persons will work in Building 33, but it is estimated that the fully operational facility will house approximately 200 workers. It is anticipated that current National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) staff will expand their existing research and development efforts into the new building. In many cases, this will require recruitment of new staff members with expertise in the selected areas of research. In addition to the research staff, the facility will include administrative areas dedicated to offices for the staff of the NIAID Director and for non-laboratory functions, such as informatics.

According to NIAID, the ultimate goal of Building 33 research is to provide information that leads to diagnostics, treatments and vaccines that will safeguard the nation's health against infectious diseases. Although strict security protocols will limit access to Building 33, it is fully anticipated that all research carried out in the facility will be published and communicated in the same manner as other NIH research.

NIH CAMPUS NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

NIH Exhibit on Low Vision Travels to Washington, DC Area

Do you or someone you know have trouble reading books even with glasses? Do you have trouble recognizing the faces of friends and relatives? If so, then low vision could be a problem according to THE EYE SITE: A Traveling Exhibit on Low Vision for Shopping Centers, which will be in the Washington area this month.



photo credit: National Eye Institute, NIH

THE EYE SITE exhibit visits three local area shopping malls this summer, according to the following schedule, accompanied by free educational activities and events at each stop:

June 1-12	Springfield Mall (Springfield, VA)
June 14-July 12	Westfield Shoppingtown Montgomery (Bethesda, MD)
July 14-27	Union Station (Washington, DC)

Sponsored by the National Eye Institute (NEI) at NIH, the exhibit provides information in both Spanish and English on low vision, its warning signs, local resources and a self assessment. Completely interactive, the kiosks also feature displays of low vision devices.

Low vision is a visual impairment not correctable by regular eyeglasses, contact lenses, medicine or surgery. It can interfere with a person's ability to perform everyday tasks and can result from a variety of eye diseases, injuries and disorders.

"For about 14 million Americans—one of every 20—the inability to see well makes doing things difficult," said Paul A. Sieving, M.D., Ph.D., director of the NEI. "This exhibit has been developed to provide information and options for people with low vision, their families and friends."

For more information, visit <http://www.nei.nih.gov/nehep/eyesite/index.htm> or call 1-877-569-8474 for a free booklet, *What You Should Know About Low Vision* (also offered in Spanish).



photo credit: National Eye Institute, NIH

Members of the public view THE EYE SITE at a shopping mall visit.

NIMH Launches National Education Campaign for Men with Depression

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) launched the first-ever national education campaign to raise awareness that men can suffer from depression. Entitled “Real Men. Real Depression,” the new public awareness campaign features personal stories of men who live with depression—a firefighter, a lawyer, a national diving champion, a retired Air Force sergeant, a publisher and a college student. Affecting more than 6 million men each year, depression is a major health problem. Research shows that men are less likely to seek treatment and that men die by suicide at four times the rate of women.

“For generations men have been told that they have to act tough,” U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona said. “Today we’re saying to men, it’s okay to talk to someone about what you’re thinking, or how you’re feeling or if you’re hurting.”

Although research shows that depression affects twice as many women as men, men are less likely to talk about the symptoms of depression. They may not recognize that their irritability, sleep problems, loss of interest in work or hobbies and withdrawal as signs of depression. “If men recognize the symptoms and seek help,” said NIMH Director Thomas Insel, “then effective treatments are available.”

Documentary film producer Leslie Wiener developed a series of public service announcements (PSAs) featuring real people—not actors—telling their stories of how depression affected them. The primary message of the PSAs is that it takes courage to ask for help. These men did, and treatment for depression helped them go back to work, be with their families and enjoy the activities they did before they began coping with the symptoms of depression.

Depression is a serious medical condition that affects the body, mind and behavior. Depression can strike anyone regardless of age, ethnic background, socioeconomic status or gender, with symptoms varying among individuals.

To learn more, call 1-866-227-6464 or visit the NIMH Web site at <http://www.nimh.nih.gov>.

NIH Community Orchestra To Perform Music of Bach, Wagner and Beethoven

The NIH Community Orchestra, a group of musicians comprising NIH employees, community members and other lovers of classical music, is once again delighting audiences this month with a concert on Sunday, June 8 in Rockville, Maryland. Featuring the music of Bach, Sibelius, Wagner and Beethoven, the concert raises money for NIH charities. A \$5 donation is suggested for adults. The concert begins at 7 p.m. at the Figge Theater at Georgetown Preparatory School, located at 10900 Rockville Pike. For more information, visit <http://www.gprep.org/~music/nih> or call 301-897-8184.

NLM Holds Visionary Anatomies Symposium

In conjunction with its *Dream Anatomy* exhibition, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) is hosting *Visionary Anatomies*, a half day symposium which examines the art and science of anatomy from the 16th century to the present at NIH. On Thursday, June 12 from 2–6:15 p.m., the symposium brings together two panels of experts in the fields of art, history and medicine to discuss how the meaning, uses and ethics of the anatomical figure in art, science and popular culture has evolved from the early 1500s. A dinner reception immediately follows the symposium from 6:30–8 p.m. in the *Dream Anatomy* exhibition space. The symposium, which costs \$35, takes place in Lister Hill Auditorium in Building 38A at NLM, 8600 Rockville Pike. For more information, visit http://www.nlm.nih.gov/dreamanatomy/da_events.html or call 301-594-1947.

NIH, International Consortium Complete Human Genome Project

This spring, the International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium, led in the United States by NIH’s National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) and the Department of Energy (DOE) announced the successful completion of the Human Genome Project more than two years ahead of schedule and under original cost projections.

The international effort to sequence 3 billion DNA letters in the human genome is considered by many to be one of the most ambitious scientific

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undertakings of all time, even compared to splitting the atom or going to the moon.

“The Human Genome Project has been an amazing adventure into ourselves, to understand our own DNA instruction book, the shared inheritance of all humankind,” said NHGRI Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., leader of the Human Genome Project since 1993. “All of the project’s goals have been completed successfully—well in advance of the original deadline and for a cost substantially less than the original estimates.”

Producing the reference sequence of the human genome has been the main effort of the scientists working on the Human Genome Project. The international consortium announced the first draft of the human sequence in June 2000. Since then, researchers have worked tirelessly to convert the “draft” sequence into a “finished” sequence. This finished sequence means that it is highly accurate (with fewer than one error per 10,000 letters) and

highly contiguous (with the only remaining gaps corresponding to regions whose sequence cannot be reliably resolved with current technology).

The finished sequence produced by the Human Genome Project covers about 99 percent of the human genome’s gene-containing regions, and it has been sequenced to an accuracy of 99.99 percent. In addition, to help researchers better understand the meaning of the human genetic instruction book, the project took on a wide range of other goals, from sequencing the genomes of model organisms to developing new technologies to study whole genomes. As of April 14, 2003, all of the Human Genome Project’s ambitious goals have been met or surpassed.

All of the sequence data generated by the Human Genome Project has been swiftly deposited into public databases and made freely available to scientists around the world, with no restrictions on its use or redistribution.

NLM Launches Pilot Programs Providing Prescription Pads for Health Information

Doctors are well-accustomed to prescribing the right kind of medicine to their patients, but what if they want to direct them to up-to-date reliable health information? Now, doctors in Iowa and Georgia can do just that.

Under a pilot program launched this spring by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the American College of Physicians–American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP–ASIM) Foundation, doctors throughout Georgia and Iowa received customized prescription pads to direct their patients to the wealth of health information found in NLM’s MEDLINEplus database.

“Physicians have always known that an informed patient who takes an active role is a ‘better’ patient,” said NLM Director Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D. “We believe that both patients and their doctors will welcome this additional medical tool—good medical information—in their continuing efforts to provide good health care.”

With contents culled from the best public and private health sites on the Internet, MEDLINEplus has accurate and reliable information on more than 600 health topics. Under each, patients can find basic information on symptoms, diagnosis and treatment, current news stories, research studies, clinical trials, helpful graphics and even interactive tutorials. The site, which is located at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/>, provides detailed, easy-to-read information on thousands of over-the-counter and prescription drugs and is also available in Spanish.

“Used properly, the Internet can be just as helpful a healthcare tool as the biopsy, the x-ray and the electrocardiogram,” said ACP–ASIM Foundation Chair Whitney Addington, M.D. “Used in conjunction with their doctor’s good care, information is the best medicine.”



NIH CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

June 5

NIH Recreation and Welfare Seminar Series: *Retirement Planning* by American Express Financial Services, 12–1 p.m., Room 2C116, Building 10, NIH campus, open to the NIH community. For more information, call 301-496-6061.

June 10–11

General Motors Cancer Research Foundation 2003 Annual Scientific Conference on Stem Cells, 8:30 a.m.–3:45 p.m. on Tuesday, 9 a.m.–12 p.m. on Wednesday, Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. For more information or a schedule of events, visit <http://www4.od.nih.gov/gmcrf> or call 919-668-8018 for more information.

June 11

The NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lectures: *Laureate Lectures for the Kettering, Sloan and Mott Prizes for Cancer Research, part of the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation 2003 Scientific Conference*, 1–3 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595 for more information, or visit <http://www1.od.nih.gov/wals/schedule.htm>.

NIH Recreation and Welfare Seminar Series: *Long Term Care Insurance Programs* by the Long-Term Care Institute, Inc., 12–1 p.m., Room 9112, Rockledge 2, 6701 Rockledge Dr., Bethesda, open to the NIH community. For more information, call 301-496-6061.

June 12

Fogarty International Center 35th Anniversary Global Health Lecture Series: *Global Health Inequities and the Critical Role of Public/Private Partnerships: Challenges and Opportunities in the Next Decade* by Gail Cassell, Ph.D., Eli Lilly and Company, 3–4 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. For more information, call Irene Edwards at 301-496-2075.

June 16

NIDCR 2003 Seymour J. Kreshover Lecture: *Biomaterials and How They Will Change Our Lives* by Dr. Robert Langer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 3:30–4:30 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, open to the members of the scientific community. Call Jody Dove for more information at 301-594-7558 or visit <http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/news/langer.asp>.

June 17

Behavioral and Social Sciences Lecture Series: *Social Networks and Internal Migration: The Case of Nang Rong, Thailand* by Barbara Entwisle, Ph.D., University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 3–4 p.m., Balcony B, Natcher

Conference Center, Building 45, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Call Ronald Abeles at 301-496-7859 for more information.

NIH Recreation and Welfare Seminar Series: *Long Term Care Insurance Programs* by the Mass Mutual Financial Group, 12–1 p.m., Room 2C116, Building 10, NIH campus, open to the NIH community. For more information, call 301-496-6061.

June 21

NIH/NOAA Employee Discount Day at Paramount Kings Dominion, *R&W is offering discounted theme park tickets to anyone interested*. Tickets are \$27. Bus transportation is also available for \$30. For more information or tickets, call 301-496-4600.

June 25

NIH Mobile Mammography Screening, by the George Washington University Breast Cancer Center, 9:30 a.m.–3:45 p.m. by appointment only, Rockledge, 6705 Rockledge Dr., Bethesda, ~\$140, open to NIH employees, their families, and others associated with NIH (e.g., contractors, volunteers, and visiting scientists). Call 202-741-3020 to make an appointment or for more information.

June 26–27

Free Radicals: The Pros and Cons of Antioxidants Conference, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. on Thursday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. on Friday, Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus. Registration required and CME credit offered. Visit <http://cancer.gov/prevention/frpca2003> or call 301-496-8573 for more information.

**Calendar items subject to change. Call to confirm your event.*

OTHER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST

American Film Institute To Hold Documentary Film Festival

The American Film Institute (AFI), in coordination with the Discovery Channel, is hosting a competitive documentary film festival June 18–22 in Silver Spring. SILVERDOCS celebrates approximately 60 films worldwide in the newly restored AFI Silver Theater and Cultural Center. SILVERDOCS is somewhat unusual in that it exclusively focuses on documentaries. Each year the festival covers a range of concerns. For 2003, film themes include world view, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and inside sports. Awards are given to the best documentaries. For more information about the film festival, visit <http://silverdocs.com> or call 301-495-6776.

Montgomery Farmers To Open Fruit and Vegetable Market in Bethesda

Bethesda area residents and employees can now take advantage of a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables and bread at a new farmers market in downtown Bethesda. Now through the end of the growing season, Montgomery County farmers are providing this service every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The market is located on Norfolk Avenue between Auburn and Glenbrook Avenues. Parking for the market is available in the public parking garage on Auburn Avenue. For riders of the Bethesda 8 trolley, the market is located one block from a Bethesda 8 trolley stop. For more information, call the Bethesda Urban Partnership at 301-215-6660 or visit <http://www.bethesda.org> for more information.

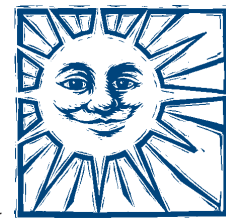
Historic Glen Echo Carousel Now Open

Last month marked the completion of a 20-year restoration project of one of the area's most beloved historic treasures—the Dentzel Carousel. Originally installed in Glen Echo Park in 1929, this antique, hand-carved carousel features a variety of beautifully painted horses, rabbits, ostriches and circus chariots, as well as a giraffe, lion, deer and tiger. The only U.S. government-owned carousel, it is one of only 135 functioning antique carousels in the country. Don't miss your chance to ride this national treasure during its 83rd season now through September 28, 2003. Tickets are \$.50 per person. Operating hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays and from noon to 6 p.m. on weekends. Glen Echo Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Boulevard in Glen Echo, Maryland. For more information, call 301-492-6229.



Rosa Patton Ragan puts some final touches on the Dentzel Carousel.

Montgomery County Offers Summer Sounds in the Park



Once again, Montgomery County is holding its popular *Summer Sounds in the Park* concert series. Starting this month and continuing through the end of August, officials are planning a variety of live entertainment in many of the county's regional parks. Performances are free and begin at 7 p.m. So bring a picnic and enjoy free outdoor musical entertainment compliments of the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, the *Journal* newspapers, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. A tentative schedule of events and locations is available at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov> under the Culture and Leisure button by clicking on Annual Events. For more information, call 240-777-6821.

Strathmore Hall Arts Center Presents Backyard Theater for Kids

Strathmore Hall Arts Center is bringing back its popular summer backyard theater program for children. Beginning June 26, families can enjoy six Thursdays of live music, theater and dance programs. High energy martial art/dancing, Irish tales, Mariachi bands and funny sing-alongs are just a few of the scheduled events. Performances are at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. and cost \$6 per person. A tentative schedule is listed below. Strathmore is located at 10701 Rockville Pike in North Bethesda. For more information, call 301-530-0540.

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| June 26 | Los Quetzales , Mexican dance and Mariachi band |
| July 3 | Nego Gato Ensemble , Afro-Brazilian dance and percussion |
| July 10 | Rodeo Roundup , Western song and rope tricks |
| July 17 | "An Ire-ish Tale," silly elfin play by the Wood & String Theater |
| July 24 | "Shake, Rattle & Roll," family fun music |
| July 31 | "Dragons Don't Sing Opera," Child's Play Touring Theater |

Silver Spring Swings into Summer with Free Concerts

The city of Silver Spring is swinging into summer this month with free concerts on Thursdays at 7 p.m. Part of the city's summer-long *Silver Spring Swings* free concert series, everyone can enjoy live concerts by nationally known artists, good food by local vendors and restaurants and entertainment by clowns. A variety of music is planned all summer long, so be sure to check out the schedule listed below. Concerts take place at the Silver Spring Metro Plaza at the intersection of Colesville Road and Second Avenue. For more information, call the Silver Spring Regional Center and Urban District at 301-565-7300 or visit <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/silspnrg>.

June 12	Jambulay, Caribbean
June 19	Alex Fox and Lisa, Latin
June 26	Ruthie & the Wranglers, country-western
July 3	Jimi Smooth and Hittime, R&B
July 10	David Bach Consort featuring Tappers with Attitude & Step Aside, jazz
July 17	Andre Christovam with Bruce Ewan, blues
July 24	Altimate Choice, Motown/R&B
July 31	Radio King Orchestra, big band
August 7	Rita Clarke and the Naturals, Zydeco
August 14	Combo Ocho, salsa

The City of Rockville Offers Free Shakespeare Theater

Join the city of Rockville for some free "Theater on the Lawn" on June 25. Actors from the Shakespeare Project plan to delight the public with Shakespeare's classic comedy, "Twelfth Night." Bring lawn chairs for comfortable seating and pack a picnic for dinner. The performance begins at 8 p.m. in the grassy area behind the cottage at Rockville Civic Center Park. In case of inclement weather, the play will be staged at the Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. For more information or in the event of rain, call 240-314-8681.

Bikeways Master Plan Meetings Set

If you are an avid bike-rider who lives or rides in Montgomery County, then you may be interested in several meetings planned to discuss the county's network of bike paths. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is inviting the public to participate in any one of three meetings to discuss the bikeway master plan process, bikeway design guidelines, share preliminary recommendations for implementing the program and review maps of the proposed bikeway network. Meeting times and locations are listed below. For more information, call Chuck Kines at 301-495-2184.

June 3, 7 p.m.	M-NCPPC Auditorium 8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, Maryland
June 11, 7 p.m.	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center 4805 Edgemoor Lane Bethesda, Maryland
June 18, 7 p.m.	Upcounty Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown, Maryland

TRY THIS WEB SITE

http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/public/heart/obesity/lose_wt/index.htm

The *Aim for a Healthy Weight* Web site provides information to the public and health care providers on how to obtain a healthy weight. Research shows that Americans keep getting heavier, and carrying extra weight can put you at risk for developing many diseases. Losing extra weight can reduce this risk. Sponsored by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, this site provides users with key recommendations on losing weight, how to get started and useful tools to help assess a proper weight. For example, you can type your weight and height into the body mass index (BMI) calculator to see how much body fat you have and if this is a healthy amount. There is also a section to help develop appropriate meal menus (including portion sizes) as well as access to further information and publications.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Crohn's Disease Treatment Study

Doctors at NIH invite you to take part in a drug treatment study for Crohn's Disease—a long-term recurring inflammation of the small and large intestine. For more information, call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010.

Volunteers Needed for Ovarian Function Study

Volunteers are needed to participate in an ovarian function study at the NIH. Compensation is available. For more information, call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010, and refer to study number 00-CH-0189.

Pulmonary Sarcoidosis Patients Needed

Doctors at NIH need volunteers with pulmonary sarcoidosis for a study comparing a medication called pentoxifylline and a placebo (sugar pill). Volunteers must be on standard steroid treatment. To participate, call NIH at 1-800-411-1222 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010 or send an e-mail to prpl@cc.nih.gov.

Dystonia Study Subjects Wanted

Researchers at the NIH are conducting a study to determine if amlodipine (Norvasc) can improve the effects of botulinum toxin injections for individuals with cervical or focal hand dystonia—a movement disorder causing abnormal postures and disruptive movements. Call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010 to participate.

The OCL Update is available on our Web site at <http://ocl.od.nih.gov>. If you would rather view this document online and not receive a printed version, please contact the OCL office at 301-496-3931. If you would like to list an upcoming event of interest to the local community, call Terry LaMotte at Palladian Partners, OCL support contractor, at 301-650-8660, or send her an e-mail at tlamotte@palladianpartners.com.

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